

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool holder (1; 21) for receiving a flexibly deformable tool (12; 26), comprising:

an elongate body (2; 22) with a channel intended to receive the end of the tool (12; 26), the channel having:

1. a cylindrical part (3; 32) parallel to the body (2; 22) and

2. a part (4; 27) opening to the outside of the body (2; 22), widening toward the outside of the body (2; 22) and configured to guide guiding the tool (12; 26) toward the cylindrical part (3; 32) when it is being fitted in the tool holder (1; 21), and

3. means (5; 13; 28, 29) which, when the tool is flexed and coupled to the tool holder, keep the tool (12; 26) in position and are arranged in such a way that the at least a portion of the axis of the tool (12; 26) in the operating phase is not parallel to the axis of the body (2; 22),

the part (4; 27) which opens to the outside of the body (2; 22) permitting introduction of the tool (12; 26) into the body (2; 22) by a displacement of the tool (12; 26) along the axis of the cylindrical part (3; 32) of the channel,

wherein the part (4; 27) opening to the outside of the body comprises a surface of which one of the generatrices being substantially parallel to the axis of the cylindrical

~~part of the channel and which extends from the cylindrical part (3; 32) to outside of the body.~~

A device comprising a tool holder and a flexibly deformable tool, the tool holder comprising:

an elongate body with a channel parallel to the body intended to receive the end of the tool; and

a support at the end of the tool holder having an end part of the channel opening to the outside of the body, widening toward the outside of the body and configured to guide the tool toward the cylindrical part when it is being fitted in the tool holder, this part opening to the outside of the body comprising a surface of which one of the generatrices being substantially parallel to the axis of the cylindrical part of the channel and which extends from the cylindrical part to outside of the body, permitting introduction of the tool into the body by a displacement along the axis of the cylindrical part of the channel; and

means to hold the tool after its flexion in such a way that at least a portion of the axis of the tool is in a direction not parallel to the axis of the body, the means being fixed to the support in the direction not parallel to the axis of the body.

2. (Currently Amended) The device ~~tool holder~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part (4; 27) opening to the outside of the body has configurations allowing it to avoid contact with the tool during its stages of flexion and fixation and when said tool is in the operating position.

3. (Currently Amended) The device ~~tool holder~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means (~~5, 13; 28, 29~~) for holding the tool (~~12; 26~~) in position comprise, on the body (~~2; 22~~), a threaded end (~~5; 28~~) onto which an internally threaded ring (~~13; 29~~) connected to the tool (~~12; 26~~) is screwed.

4. (Currently Amended) The device ~~tool holder~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for holding the tool (~~12; 26~~) in position comprise, on the body, an end which cooperates with a ring connected to the tool (~~12; 26~~) in order to form a bayonet-type connection system.

5. (Currently Amended) The device ~~tool holder~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for holding the tool (~~12; 26~~) in position comprise, on the body, clip means which cooperate with complementary clip means on a ring connected to the tool (~~12; 26~~).

6. (Currently Amended) The device ~~tool holder~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for holding the tool (~~12; 26~~) in position comprise, on the body, shape-fit means which cooperate with complementary shape-fit means on a ring connected to the tool (~~12; 26~~).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The A device comprising the tool holder (~~1; 21~~) as claimed in claim 1 and the ~~[[a]]~~ flexibly deformable tool (~~12; 26~~) connected to a ring (~~13; 29~~).

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the tool ~~(12; 26)~~ is connected to the ring ~~(29)~~ by a pivot connection.

10. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the tool ~~(12)~~ is an injection needle.

11. (Canceled)